SURPRISE STORIES

by Marjorie Hardy

Owen Crawford

SURPRISE STORIES

A FIRST READER

The Child's Own Way Series

BY
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My name is Puff.
I am a little white kitten.
I live with a little girl.
Her name is Sally.

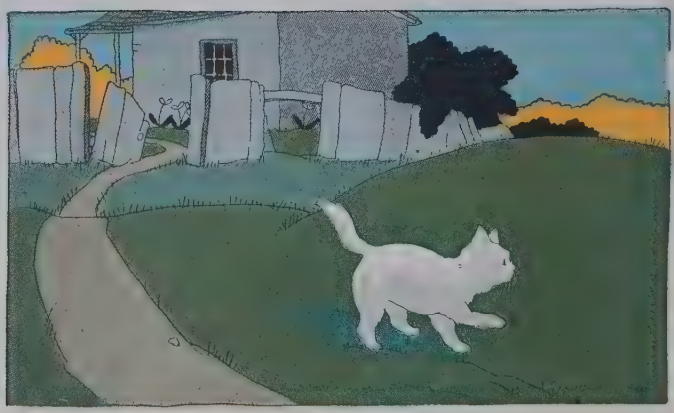
I like to live with Sally.
She takes good care of me.
She feeds me.
Sally knows just what
I should eat.
She knows just how much
I should eat.

Sally and I are good friends.
I came to live with Sally
because I had no home.
Do you want to know why
I had no home?

Why Puff Had No Home

Once there was an old woman.
The old woman had a big white cat.
The cat had four little kittens.
Three kittens were black, and
one kitten was white.

One day the old woman said,
"I have one big cat and
four little kittens.
Soon the kittens will be big cats.
Then I shall have five big cats.
I like cats, but I can not keep
five cats.
Five cats will drink
too much milk.



I shall keep the big white cat.
I shall keep one black kitten.
I shall give the other kittens
away."

The white kitten heard
what the woman said.
The white kitten was not happy.
She said, "I will run away
from here.
I will find a home."

And so she ran away
and found a home.

My name is Wag.
I am a little brown dog.
I live with a little boy.
His name is Billy.
I like to live with Billy.
He takes good care of me.
He feeds me.
Billy knows just what
I should eat.

He knows just how much
I should eat.
He knows how to give me
a bath.
Billy and I are good friends.
I came to live with Billy
because I had no home.
Do you want to know why
I had no home?

Why Wag Had No Home

Once there was a man.
He was an old man.
He lived in a little old house.
The little old house was
in the woods.

The old man had
one big brown dog.
The big brown dog had
two little puppies.
One day the old man said.
"I like my dogs.
But I can not keep them all.
I can keep the big dog.
But I can not keep
the two little puppies.
I am too old to take care of all
of them."
One day an old woman came
into the woods.
She came by the little old house.
She saw the big dog and
the little puppies.

The big dog and
the little puppies saw her.
The old man saw her, too.
One little brown puppy
ran after the old woman.
He went home with her.
But the old woman did not take good
care of the little brown puppy.
She did not know what to feed him.

She did not know how much
to feed him.
She forgot to give him water.
She forgot to give him a bath.
The little brown dog was not happy
with the old woman.
One day he ran away to find
a good home.
And he found a good home.

I am a little white hen.
Once I lived on a farm.
Then I came to live
with Billy and Sally.
We were good friends.
Billy and Sally took
good care of me.
I lived in a little brown house.

Then one day Billy took me
to school.
I liked it there.
My thirteen little chicks
were hatched in school.

One day Billy and his father
took me back
to the little brown house.
They took my little chicks, too.

Then another day they took
us all back to the farm.
Once I did not like the farm.
But I like it now.
Do you want to know why
I like the farm now?

Why White Hen Likes the Farm

Once there was a woman.
She lived on a farm.
She was the farmer's wife.

The farmer's wife took care
of the chickens.
She took good care of them.
She fed them.
She knew just what to feed them.
She knew just how much to feed
them.
The farmer's wife had
many, many hens.
One was a little white hen.
The others were big hens.

One day the farmer's wife said,
"Next Sunday we shall eat
the little white hen."
The little white hen heard
what the farmer's wife said.
The little white hen was not happy.
She was afraid.
Whenever she saw the farmer's wife,
she ran.
She ran this way and that way.
She said, "Cluck! Cluck! Cluck!
I do not want to be eaten."

One day the little white hen said,
"I do not like the farm.
I am afraid to stay here.
I shall run away."
The next day the little white hen
saw a big black car at the farm.
She hid in the car.
The car took her a long, long way.
It took her to a little brown house.
The farmer's wife could not find
the little white hen.
Every day she said, "Come, Chick,
Chick, Chick!"
But the little white hen
did not come.
One day the farmer's wife saw Billy
and his father.

They had the little white hen.
Billy told the farmer's wife all about
the little white hen.
He told her about taking the hen
to school.
He told her that the little chicks
were hatched in school.
And he told her about taking
the hen and the little chicks
to the little brown house.
Then the farmer's wife said,
"We shall never eat
the little white hen."
The little hen heard
what the farmer's wife said.
Then she was not afraid.
She likes the farm, now.

We are the thirteen little chicks.
Five of us are yellow.
Three of us are black.
And five of us are white.
The little white hen
is our mother.
Once we lived in a school.
We were hatched there.
We liked it there.

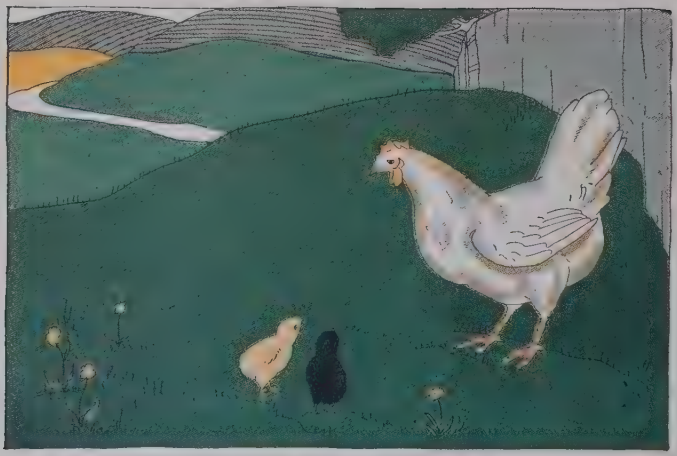
One day they took us away.
They took us
to a little brown house.
We liked it there, too.
We liked to scratch for worms
under the little brown house.
Then one day they took
us all to the farm.
We are at the farm now.
We like the farm the best.
We like to scratch for worms
on the farm.
But two of us are going away.
Do you want to know why
two of us are going?
Do you want to know where
two of us are going?

Two Chicks Leave the Farm

A mother hen had
thirteen little chicks.
One day she called them to her.
She called the five white chicks.
She called the three black chicks.
And she called the five yellow chicks.
The mother hen said,
"You live on a farm now.

You must take good care
of yourselves.
You must keep away from the cows
and the horses.
They might step on you.
You must keep away
from the other animals, too.
They might step on you.
You must keep away
from the cats and the dogs.
They might frighten you.
You must keep away
from the big road.
The big cars might run over you.

You will like the farm if you
take good care of yourselves."

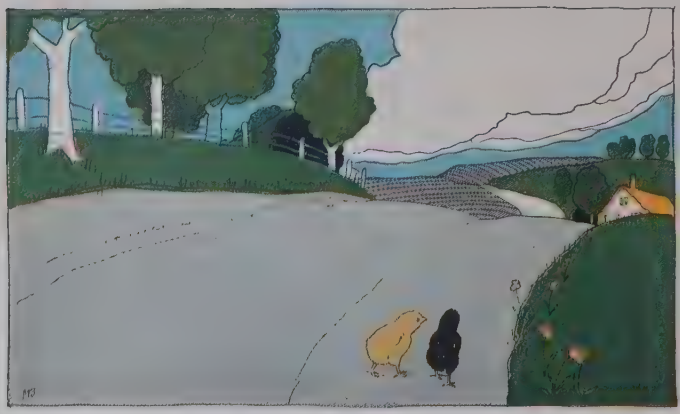


The little chicks said, "Yes, Mother,
we will take good care
of ourselves."

That night one little yellow chick
and one little black chick said
to the mother hen,
"Mother, we want to go
down the big road.

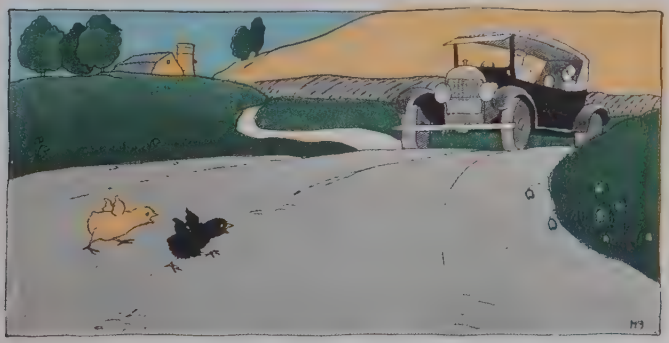
We want to see
where the big road goes.
We want to go away."

The mother hen said, "I am
very sorry that you want
to go away.
I want you to stay here.
But you may go if you
will take good care
of yourselves.
You may go in the morning.
It is time to go to bed now.
Run into the hen house."
Then the chicks said,
"Peep! Peep! Peep!" and ran
into the hen house.



Down the Road

The next morning one little black chick
woke up very early.
One little yellow chick woke up early,
too.
The black chick and the yellow chick
said goodbye to their mother.
They said goodbye
to the other little chicks.
Then they started down the road.



It was a big white road.
The two little chicks walked and
walked.
They walked down one side
of the road.
Soon a big black car came down
that side of the road.
It came very fast.
The little chicks were frightened.
They ran to the other side
of the road.

"Let us walk on this side
of the road,"
said the little black chick.
"Yes," said the little yellow chick.
"Let us walk on this side of the road.
Then the cars can not run over us.
I am afraid of cars."
Just then something went by
the two little chicks.
It went by them very fast.
It was a very, very big car.
Then another car went by them.
Then another car and
another car went by them.
The two little chicks were
very much frightened.
They ran this way and that way.

One big car almost ran over them.
"The cars go on this side
of the road, too,"
said the little yellow chick.
"Let us go back to the farm,"
said the little black chick.
So the two little chicks ran
as fast as they could.
They ran back to the farm.
After that they did not want
to go down the big road.

We are six robins.
One of us is the mother robin.
One of us is the father robin.
And four of us are baby robins.
We had a nest
in a little apple tree.
The little apple tree was
near Billy's house.
We liked to live near Billy's house.
Billy and Sally were our friends.

They were good to us.
The dog and the cat were good
to us, too.
They never came near us.
Billy put a pan of water
on the ground for us.
We drank some of the water.
Sometimes we got into it.
It was fun to get into the water.
Billy gave us some crumbs.
Billy liked to hear us sing.
We do not live near Billy's house,
now.
We live in another place.
It is far away from Billy's house.
Where do you think we live?
Why do you think we came here?

Goodbye to Billy and Sally

One day the mother and the father robin said to their baby robins:
"It will be cold here, soon.
The cold is not good for us.
We must take care of ourselves.
So we must fly away
to the Sunny South.
We must fly far away from here."

"We do not want to fly away
from here," said the baby robins.

"You will find nothing to eat here
in winter.
You will have no friends.
They are all going away, too,"
said the father and
the mother robin.
"You must fly away with us
to a warm place.
You will like it there.
By and by we shall come
back here, again.
You will see Billy and Sally again."

Then the baby robins were happy.

One day all of the robins sat
in the little apple tree.
They sang and sang and sang.
Then they flew away.

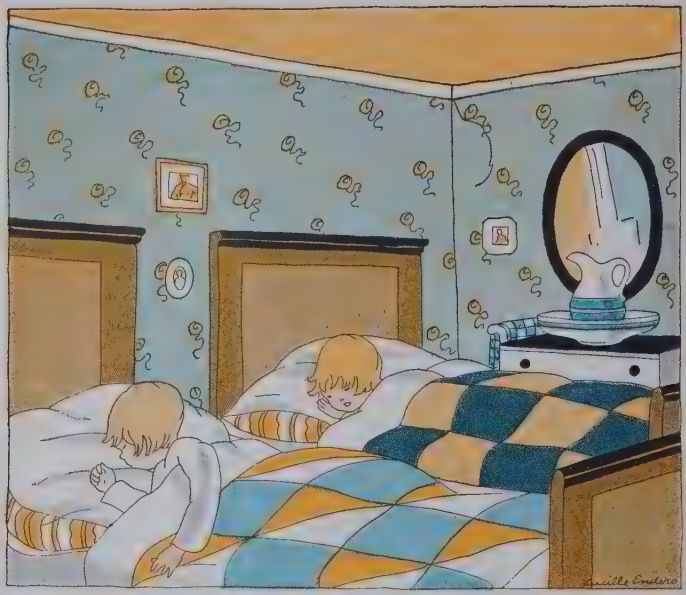
They flew for many days.
They flew far, far away.

By and by they came
to the Sunny South.
They liked it there.
They stayed there for a long time.
They stayed all winter.

When spring came, the robins all
flew back to live near Billy's
house again.

I am the farmer.
I live on the farm.

I have a house on the farm.
I have a very large barn there, too.
There are horses, cows, sheep, pigs,
ducks, and chickens on my farm.
I take good care of them.
I know just what to feed them.
And I know just how much
to feed them.
Billy's father and mother come
to the farm to get good things
to eat.
Billy and Sally come, too.
They like to see the animals.
Once Sally and Billy stayed all night
on the farm.
What do you think happened there
that night?

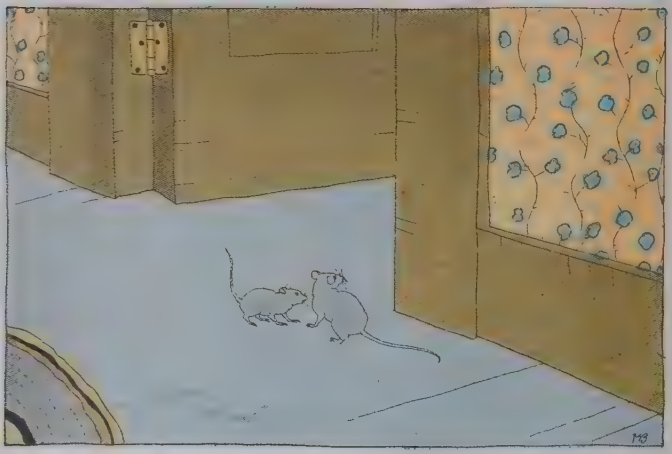


A Night on the Farm

Sally and Billy were very happy.
They were at the farm.
They were going to stay there
all night.
That night Sally and Billy
went to bed very early.

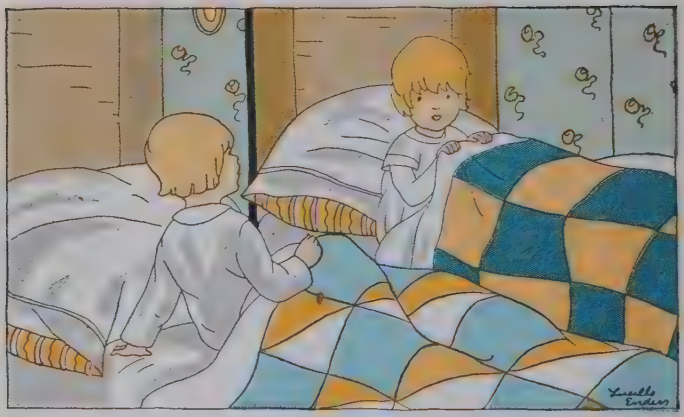
After they had been in their beds
a little while, Sally said,
"Oh, Billy, how still it is here!"
"It is always still on the farm
at night," said Billy.
"All the animals are asleep.
All the chickens and the ducks
are asleep.
You must go to sleep, too.
Do not be afraid."

After a little while Sally said,
"Oh, Billy, how dark it is outside!"
"It is always dark on the farm
at night," said Billy.
"You must go to sleep, Sally.
Do not be afraid."



While Billy and Sally were talking,
a little mouse said to its mother,
"Oh, Mother, I am so afraid!
I hear something."
"I hear something, too," said
the mother mouse.
"Who can be in this room?
The farmer does not sleep here.
His wife does not sleep here."

Soon Sally and Billy fell asleep.
While Billy and Sally were asleep
the little mouse said,
"It is still now.
I will go into the room and see
who is in there."
"Keep away from the trap,"
said the mother mouse.
The little mouse ran into the room.
It ran this way and that way.
It did not keep away from the trap.



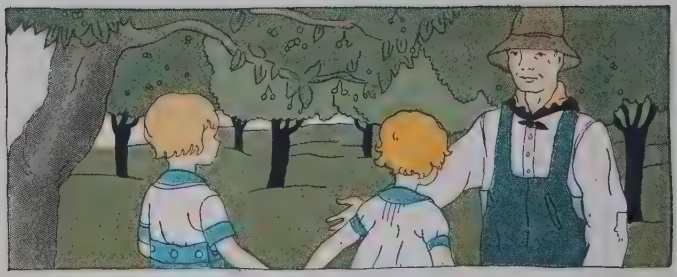
The little mouse touched it.
Snap! went the trap.
But it did not catch the little mouse.
"What was that?" said Sally,
and she sat right up in bed.
"What was that?" said Billy,
and he sat right up in bed.
Sally and Billy called the farmer.
"What is the matter?"
said the farmer.

And he came to their room.
"We heard a noise,"
said Billy and Sally.
"You heard the trap," said the farmer.
"Do not be afraid.
Go to sleep.
The mouse has run away."
Then Sally and Billy went to sleep
and did not wake up till
morning.

My name is Sally.
I am five years old.
Billy is my brother.
Puff is my kitten.

Wag is Billy's dog.
I play with Billy, Puff, and Wag.
I have a good time with them.

Today I went to the farm.
I went to the farm with Father, Billy,
and Wag.
We went to get cherries.
The farmer had many cherry trees.
There were many cherries
on the trees.
But the farmer was not happy.
The birds had been eating his cherries.
The farmer did not want the birds
to eat the cherries.
What do you think the farmer did
to keep the birds away?



The Scarecrow

One day Father went to the farm.
He went to the farm to get cherries.
Sally, Billy, and Wag went with him.
When they got to the farm they found the farmer.
He was looking at his cherry trees.
He said, "The birds are eating my cherries.
I must make a scarecrow.
The scarecrow will frighten the birds away."

Billy said, "I want to pick cherries."
So Billy helped his father pick cherries.
Sally said, "I want to see
the scarecrow."
So Sally went with the farmer
to see the scarecrow.
Sally helped the farmer
make the scarecrow.

It was a funny scarecrow.
It had two large black eyes.
It had a large nose.
And it had a large mouth.
The farmer put a big black hat
on the scarecrow's head.

"The scarecrow will scare Wag,"
said Sally.
"He has never seen a scarecrow.
Here comes Wag. Let us hide
and see what he will do."
When Wag saw the scarecrow
he began to bark.
He began to bark at the scarecrow.
He said, "Bow-wow-wow.
Go away from here.
Go away, before I bite you."
But the scarecrow did not go away.
Wag was very angry.
He was angry because the scarecrow
would not go away.
So he barked and barked
at the scarecrow.

Sally and the farmer ran to Wag.
"You are a good watch dog,"
said the farmer.
Sally said, "You are a good watch dog.
The scarecrow scared you
but you did not run away."

My name is Billy.
Sally is my sister.
Wag is my dog.

Puff is Sally's kitten.
I play with Sally, Wag,
and Puff.

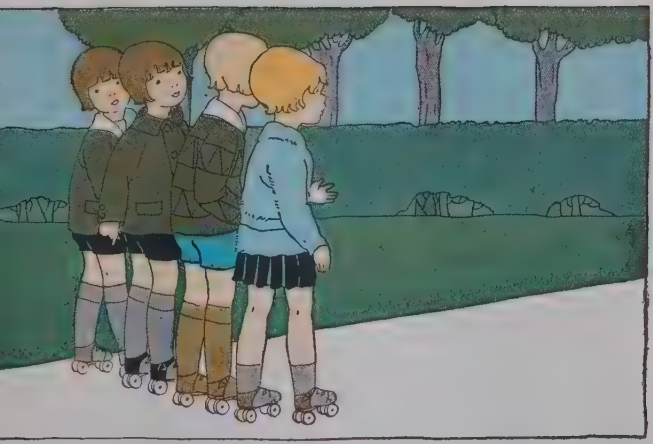
Two boys live next door.
I play with them, too.
I have a good time with them.
I have fun in the winter.
I have fun in summer, too.
I like to skate.
I can skate in summer
and in winter.
We have a stone walk
in our back yard.
Today after school we shall have
a race on the walk.
Who do you think will win the race?

The Race

One day Billy and the
two boys who lived next door
ran all the way home
from school.
They wanted to get home
as soon as they could.
They were going skating.
They were going to have
a race on the walk.
in Billy's back yard.

While Billy and the boys were
putting on their skates
Sally said,
"I want to be in the race, too."

The boys said, "You may be
in the race, but you
can not win it."
The two boys were ready first.
Billy was ready next.
Sally was the last one
to get ready.
Billy put her skates on for her.
When everyone was ready,
Billy said, "I will count.
When I say 'Go!' you must all
skate up on this side.
Then you must all skate back
on the other side.
The first one who gets back here
is the winner."
Then Billy began to count.



He said,

"One for the money.
Two for the show.
Three to make ready,
And four to go!"

When Billy said "Go!" they all began to skate.

The boys all skated very fast.

Sally skated very slowly.

Billy was ahead for a while.
Then one of his skates came off,
and he fell down.
The two boys looked around
to see Billy, and they
fell down, too.
But Sally did not look around.
She skated on and on.
Then Sally got far ahead.
She got far ahead of Billy.
She got far ahead
of the two boys.
Sally won the race.

"You can skate well, Sally.
You may race with us again,"
said Billy.

I am Sally's mother.
I am Billy's mother, too.
They are good children.

They help me every day.
They give me many good times.
I will give them a good time
tomorrow.
I will have a party for them.
It will be a surprise party.
I will ask five other children
to come to the party.
Every child at the party
shall have a surprise.
But the best surprise shall be
for Billy because it will be
his birthday.
I have seven surprises
for the children.
The surprises are all in little boxes.
What do you think they are?

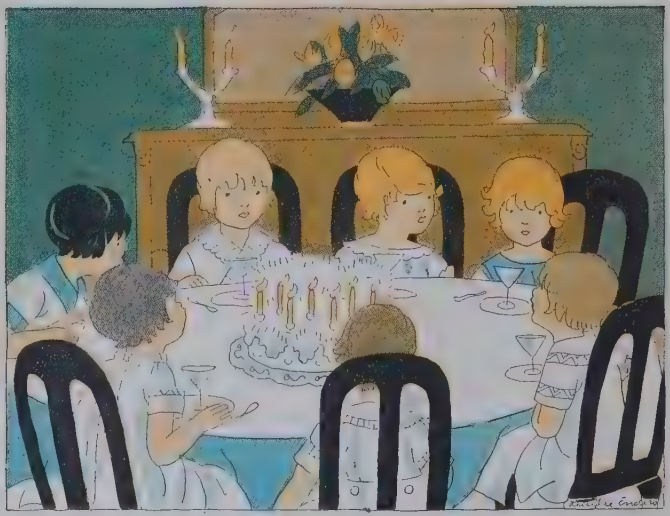
The Surprise Party

Billy was very happy.
It was his birthday.
He was seven years old.
His mother said, "After school today
you shall have a birthday
present."
"Oh, please give it to me now,
Mother!" said Billy.
"No," said Mother, "after school you
shall have your present.
Wait and see."
That afternoon Billy ran home
from school as fast as he could.
He wanted to see
what his present was.

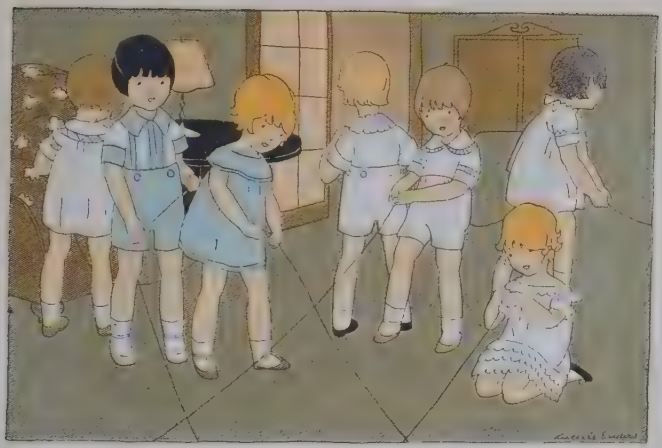
Sally wanted to see what it was,
too.
The children ran upstairs
to their mother.
"Mother! Mother! where is
the surprise?" they cried.

Mother said, "Close your eyes."
Then she gave Sally
a new white dress.
She gave Billy a new white suit.
"Oh, Mother, may we put them on?"
asked the children.
"Yes, put them on," said Mother.
"Then we will go downstairs."

Then what do you think happened
downstairs?
Five other children ran
into the room shouting,
"Surprise party! Surprise party!"
Billy and Sally were surprised.
They laughed and laughed.
All the children laughed.



They played games.
Then Mother brought in
a large birthday cake.
There were seven candles
on the cake.
The children blew out the candles.
Then they ate the cake.
They ate ice cream, too.



After that, Mother said,
"Now each one of you will have
a surprise.
Each surprise is in a box.
Each box is at the end
of a string in the other room.
Each child will have a string
to pull."
The children pulled and pulled.

They all opened their boxes.
One child found a little doll.
One child found a ring.
Another child found a purse.
Another child found a game.
Two children found tops.

But all the children had to help
Billy pull his box,
it was so heavy.
They pulled and pulled.
The string broke; and out of the
box jumped a real live rabbit.
Billy jumped up and down and
clapped his hands.
"Oh, thank you, thank you,
Mother!" cried Billy.

I am Billy's father.
I am Sally's father, too.
They are good children.
They help their mother every day.
They had never been to a circus.
I took them to see one yesterday.
It was a fine circus.

Sally liked to see the clowns, and the monkeys, and the elephants.
Billy liked to see the clowns, and the monkeys, and the dogs.
But he liked the dogs best.
Should you like to know what the clowns, the monkeys, the elephants, and the dogs did?

I am one of the clowns
in the circus.

I make the children laugh.
I make the men and the women
laugh, too.
I stand on my head.
I make funny faces.
I do all sorts of funny things.
Sometimes I ride on horses
and jump through hoops.

It is fun to be a clown
in the circus.
I have a little boy.
He wants to be a clown like me.
Tomorrow I shall let him be
a clown.
What kind of clown do you think
he will be?

The Boy Clown

Jimmie's father was a clown in the circus.

One day he said to Jimmie, "It is your birthday today. You are seven years old. Here is a present for you. It is in this box."

Jimmie opened the box, and what do you think he found?

He found a little clown suit. It was just big enough for a little boy.

"Oh, Father," said Jimmie. "T[illegible] you! May I put it on now?"

"Yes," said his father, "you put it on and then you may go the tent with me."

First Jimmie put on the suit.

One half of the suit was black. The other half was orange.

It had a big collar. There were little points around the collar. And on every point there was a little bell.

It was just like his father's clown suit.

Then Jimmie put on the little pointed slippers and the little pointed cap.

Father painted Jimmie's face white just like a clown's face. Then they went into the tent.

When the people saw Jimmie and his father coming, they said, "Oh, see the big clown and the little clown! They look just alike."

Jimmie did just what his father did.

When the big clown stood on his head, Jimmie stood on his head.

When the big clown made faces, Jimmie made faces.

When the big clown rolled over and fell down, Jimmie rolled over and fell down.

The people laughed and clapped their hands.

When the big clown ran as fast as he could, Jimmie ran as fast as he could.

When the big clown ran out of the tent, Jimmie ran after him and said, "Father, I want to be a clown again. When I am a man, I am going to be a clown all the time."

We are the dogs
in the circus.

We can do tricks.
We can run races.
We can ride on the horses
and jump through hoops.

Sometimes we are dressed up
to look just like people.
When we are dressed like
people, we do all sorts
of things that people do.
It makes the people laugh
to see us do the same things
that they do.
Today the people laughed at us
and clapped their hands.
What do you think
we were doing?

Playing House at the Circus

There were eight little dogs in the circus. They were circus dogs.

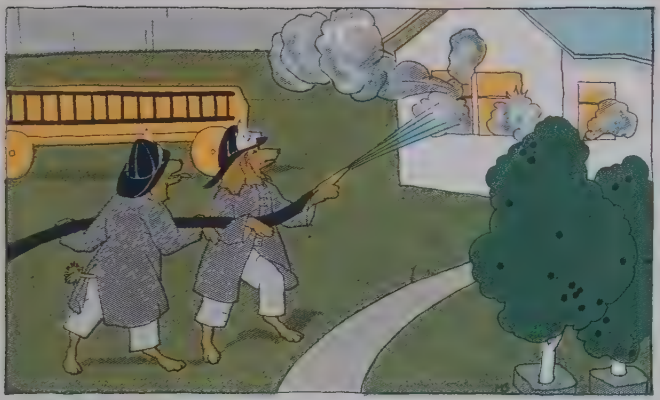
A man and a woman dressed the dogs. They dressed them to look like people.

One dog was dressed to look like a mother. Another dog was dressed to look like a father. One little dog was dressed to look like a little baby. Two dogs were dressed to look like firemen. And one dog was dressed to look like a driver.

When the dogs went into the tent, they walked on two legs just as people walk.

They walked into a little house. The little house was made of cardboard.

By and by they came out of the house and sat on the porch. They sat in little chairs and rocked and rocked.



Then the mother dog took the baby dog out for a ride.

The father dog stayed at home and smoked his pipe.

By and by he smelled smoke. It was not the smoke from his pipe. He found that the house was on fire. He telephoned for help.

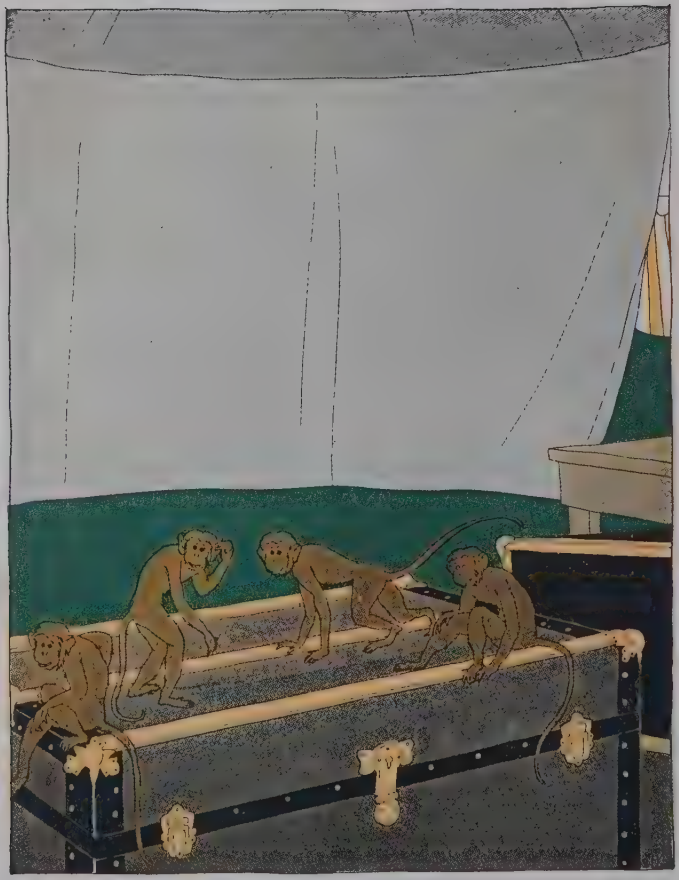
The dog firemen came and soon put out the fire.

When the mother dog came home with the baby dog, she saw the father dog sitting on the porch smoking his pipe. The mother dog with the baby dog sat on the porch, too.

After a while a little carriage drove up to the dog's house. A little dog was dressed as a driver. Two little dogs were the horses. The little carriage had two seats.

The father dog, and the mother dog, and the baby dog got into the carriage. They sat on the back seat. Then they drove away.

They drove out of the tent and did not come back again that day.



We are the little monkeys
in the circus.

The other monkeys in the circus
are larger than we are.
The large monkeys have to stay
in cages.
They can not do tricks and run races.
We are smaller, but we do not
have to stay in cages.
We can do all sorts of things.
When we do one thing, the people
laugh and laugh.
Where do you think the circus man
got us?
What trick do you think the people
like to see us do?

The Monkey Race

Once there were four little monkeys. They were bright little fellows. They had lived with some men who had hand organs. They were very tame.

One day the men who had the hand organs sold the little monkeys. They sold them to the circus.

A man in the circus said, "I must teach these monkeys to ride dogs. Then they can have a race. The people will like to see the little monkeys in a race. The people will laugh and clap their hands."

It was not hard to teach the little monkeys to ride the dogs. They soon learned how to do it. And they liked to ride, too.

The dogs liked to have the monkeys ride on their backs. They liked to run very fast.

When the monkeys had learned how to ride the dogs, the circus man said, "Now you can have a race for the people."

The circus man dressed the monkeys. He put blue trousers on all of them. He put a blue coat on one little monkey. He put an orange coat on another, a yellow coat on another, and a green coat on another. Then he put little blue caps on their heads.

When they were ready for the race, the man called the dogs. Then one, two, three, four dogs came. They were very big dogs.

The monkeys jumped up on the backs of the big dogs and got ready to race.

The man made the dogs stand in a line. Then he gave them the signal to go.

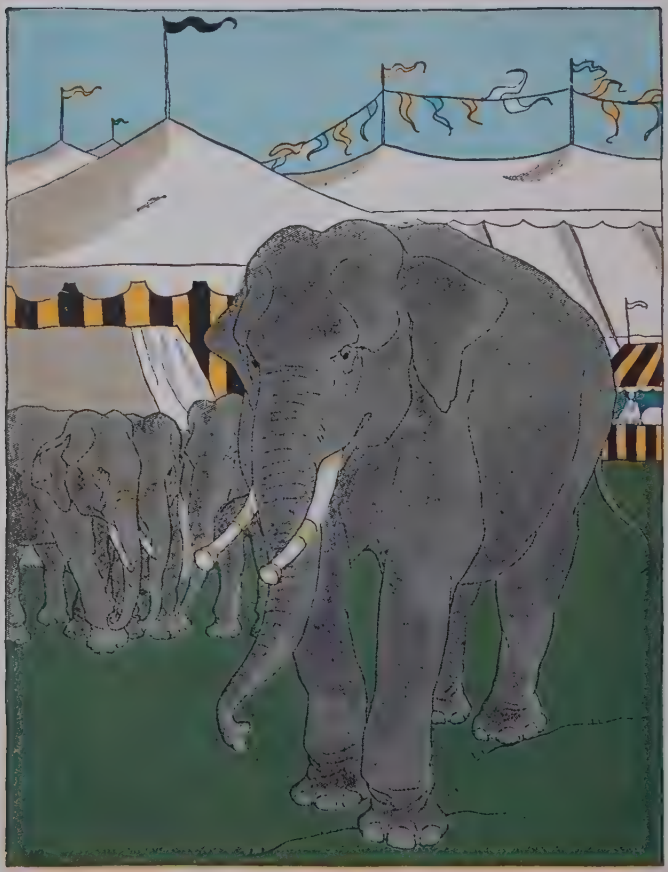
The dogs ran and ran. They ran round and round the ring.

The monkey with the blue coat fell off his dog. But he was not hurt.

The monkey with the green coat fell off his dog, too. But he was not hurt.

The monkey with the orange coat won the race. The monkey with the yellow coat was just behind him.

How the people clapped and clapped! They clapped their hands for all the monkeys and for all the dogs. But they clapped most for the little monkey with the orange coat.



I am one of the elephants
in the circus.

There are other elephants in the circus, but I am the biggest one.

I stand outside the big tent with the other elephants.

People like to look at us. We like to look at them.

One day a man with a little girl and a little boy stopped to look at me.

The little girl said, "See the big elephant. What great big ears he has! What a long trunk he has!"

Then the little boy said, "I wonder what this great big elephant will do in the circus."

Do you want to know what they saw me do in the circus?

Jumbo

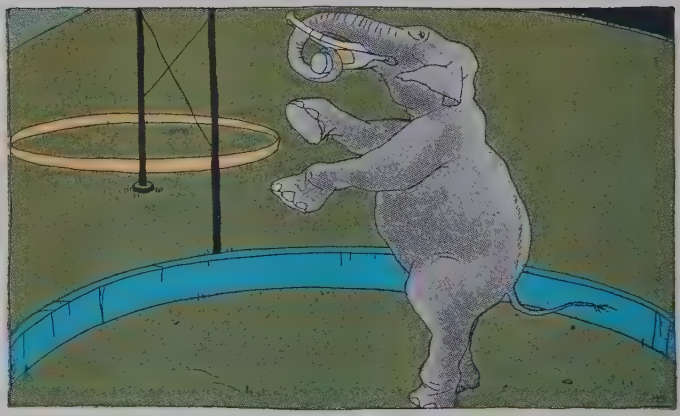
Jumbo was an elephant. He was the biggest elephant in the circus.

Jumbo could do three tricks. He liked to do his tricks, because after he did them a man gave him something to eat.

One day this big elephant was very hungry. He wanted to do his tricks right away.

Soon it was time for Jumbo to go into the tent and do his tricks.

The big elephant got on to one end of the see-saw and another elephant got on the other end. Then they went up and down, up and down.



Then the man told Jumbo to stand up on his hind legs.

So Jumbo stood on his hind legs and held his trunk up in the air. Then the man gave him a bottle of water. Jumbo took the bottle in his trunk and drank all the water.

Then Jumbo heard the band playing and he began to dance. His big feet went this way and that way.

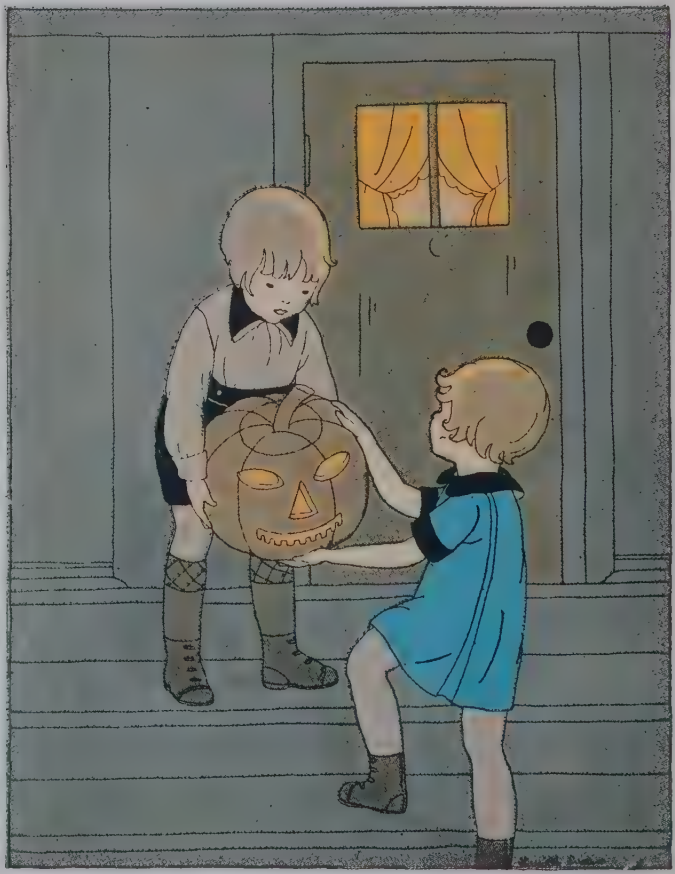
When the music stopped, Jumbo made a bow and walked out of the tent. He wanted to get outside as soon as he could.

As the big elephant went out of the tent, he heard a little boy say, "I wonder what the elephant will do outside the tent now."

A Jack-o'-Lantern

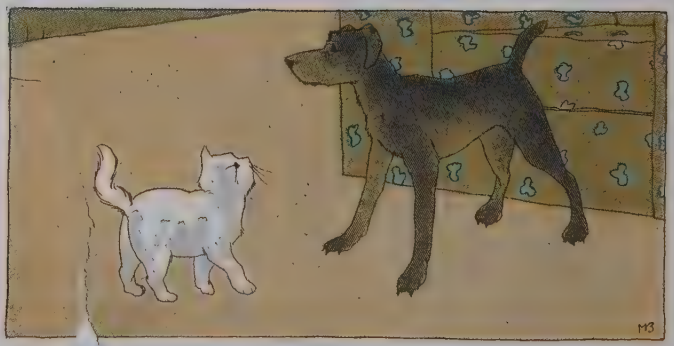
Sally and Billy liked Halloween.
They liked to make Jack-o'-lanterns.
One Halloween Billy said to Sally,
"Wag has never seen a Jack-o'-lantern.
Puff has never seen a Jack-o'-lantern.
Let us make a Jack-o'-lantern
and see what they will do."

That day Billy and Sally and
Father made a Jack-o'-lantern.
It was a funny Jack-o'-lantern.
It had two big eyes.
It had one big nose.
And it had one big mouth
with many, many teeth.



That night Billy and Sally put
the Jack-o'-lantern on the steps.

By and by Wag came along.
He saw the Jack-o'-lantern.
He was afraid.
He said, "Bow-wow-wow!"
He ran into the house.
He barked and barked.



Puff heard Wag bark.
Puff said, "Wag, why
do you bark?"
"Oh! I have just seen something,"
said Wag.
"I do not know what it is.
It has two big eyes.
It has one big nose.
And it has one big mouth
with many, many teeth.
I am afraid of it."

Puff said, "Do not be afraid, Wag.
I will look at it.
I will tell you what it is."
When Puff saw the Jack-o'-lantern,
she said, "Meow!"
Then she ran as fast as she could.

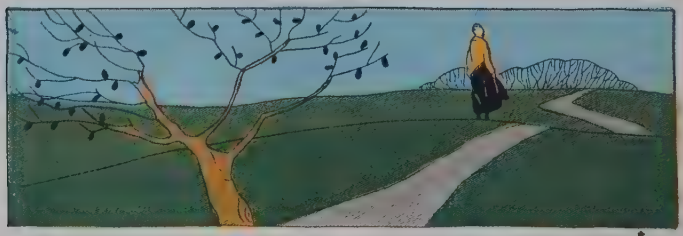
She ran up a tree and said,
"Meow! Meow! Meow!"
She could not tell Wag
what it was.
She would not come down
from the tree.

By and by Sally came to the steps.
She looked up into the tree
and laughed.
She picked up the Jack-o'-lantern
and ran into the house.
Then Puff came down from the tree
and ran into the house
after Sally.

A Thanksgiving Joke

Once there was a turkey.
It lived on a farm.
It was the biggest turkey
on the farm.
One day the farmer said,
"Soon Thanksgiving Day
will be here.
We will have the biggest turkey
for our dinner."

The big turkey heard what the
farmer said.
He was afraid.
The turkey said, "Gobble! Gobble!
I will fool the farmer.
I will run away."
So the big turkey ran away.
By and by the farmer came out
to get the big turkey.
He could not find it.
He said,
"Where can it be?
Where can it be?
Where can it be?
I do not see."
The farmer looked and looked.
But he did not find the big turkey.

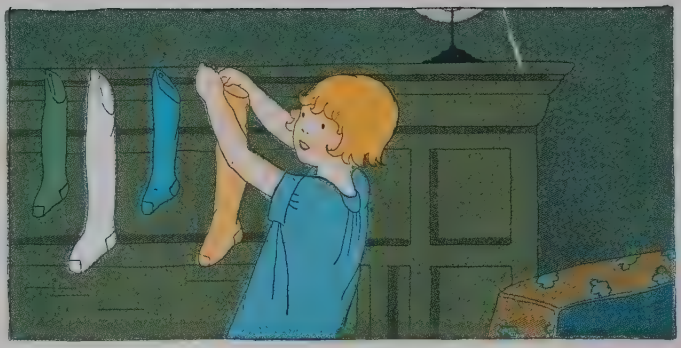


The next day the farmer's wife
looked for the big turkey.
She looked and looked.
But she could not find
the big turkey.
So she said,
"Oh, dear! Oh, dear!
What shall we do?
I want that turkey
And so do you."
Then she said to the farmer,
"If we can not find the big turkey
we must find a little one."

All the turkeys heard
what the farmer said.
They heard what the farmer's wife
said, too.
They were afraid.
They ran under the barn, and they
would not come out.
So the farmer and his wife
did not have turkey
for their Thanksgiving dinner.

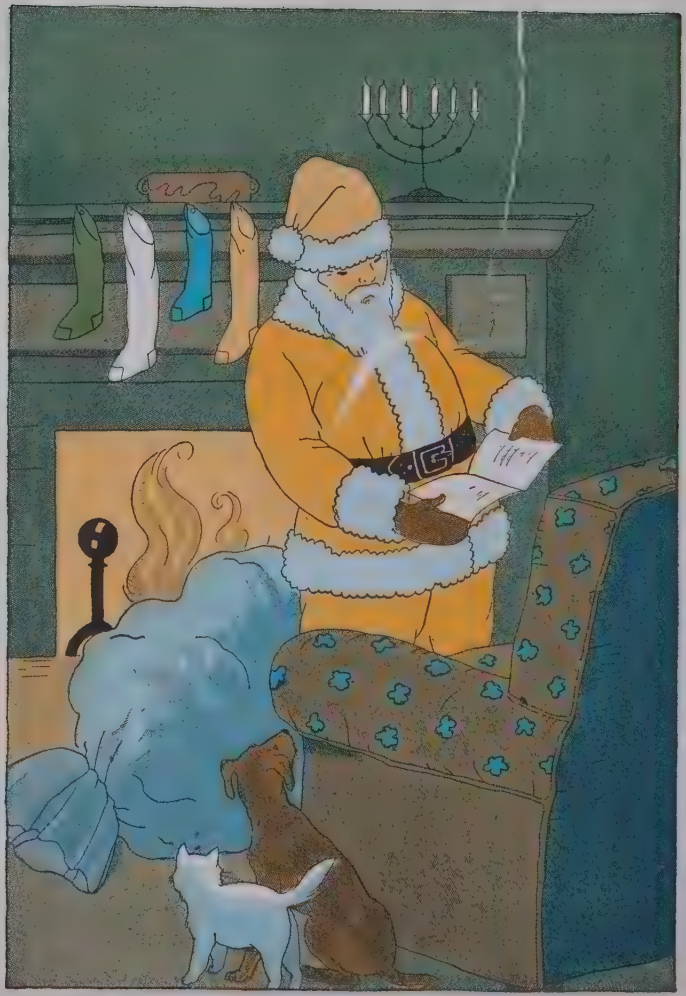
Wag and Puff's First Christmas

One day Puff said to Wag,
"I heard Billy say
that Christmas is coming.
Who is Christmas?"
"I do not know," said Wag.
Then Wag said, "I heard
Sally say that Santa Claus
is coming.
Who is Santa Claus?"
"I do not know," said Puff.
"We must wait and see."
That night Wag and Puff
saw Billy go to the fireplace.
He had two stockings
in his hands.



One was a big white stocking and
one was a little green stocking.
Billy hung the stockings
over the fireplace.
Then Wag and Puff saw Sally go
to the fireplace.
She had two stockings in her hand.
One was a big yellow stocking.
and one was a little blue stocking.
Sally hung the stockings
over the fireplace.

Wag and Puff heard Sally ask
her mother to write a letter.
They heard her say, "Mother,
please write:
'Dear Santa Claus:
The white stocking is Billy's.
The yellow stocking is mine.
The green stocking is Wag's,
And the blue stocking is Puff's.
Wag is our dog and Puff is
our cat.
We have all been very good.
Sally.'"
Wag and Puff saw Sally
put the letter in the fireplace.
Then they saw Sally and Billy
go upstairs to bed.



"Let us stay here and see
who Santa Claus is," said Wag.
"Yes," said Puff, "let us stay here.
We can hide under the chair."

Soon they heard sleigh bells.
Then they heard a noise.
And then they saw a jolly little
old man in a red suit.
He came right out of the fireplace.
He had a pack on his back.

Wag and Puff heard him say,
"Well! What is this?
Oh, it's a little letter for me!
I will read it."
Then he read the letter:

"Dear Santa Claus:

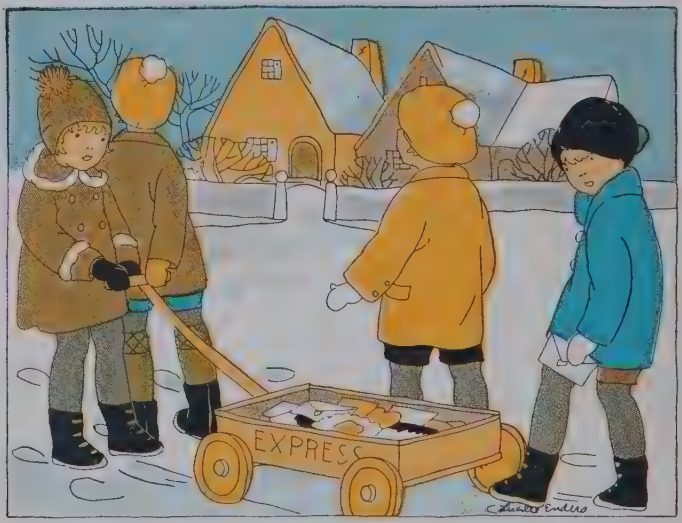
The white stocking is Billy's.
The yellow stocking is mine.
The green stocking is Wag's.
And the blue stocking is Puff's.
Wag is our dog and Puff
is our cat.
We have all been very good.

Sally."

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" laughed Santa Claus.
"So the children have
hung up stockings for their dog
and their cat.
They must be good children.
I will be good to them."
He put a beautiful doll
into the yellow stocking.

He put a sailboat
into the white stocking.
He put a bone into the green
stocking and some catnip
into the blue stocking.
He put some candy and an orange
into all the stockings.
Wag and Puff watched Santa
Claus put some other toys
on the floor.
"Merry Christmas to all!"
said Santa Claus.
And away he went.
"Now I know what Christmas is,"
said Wag.
"Now I know who Santa Claus is,"
said Puff.

GAME

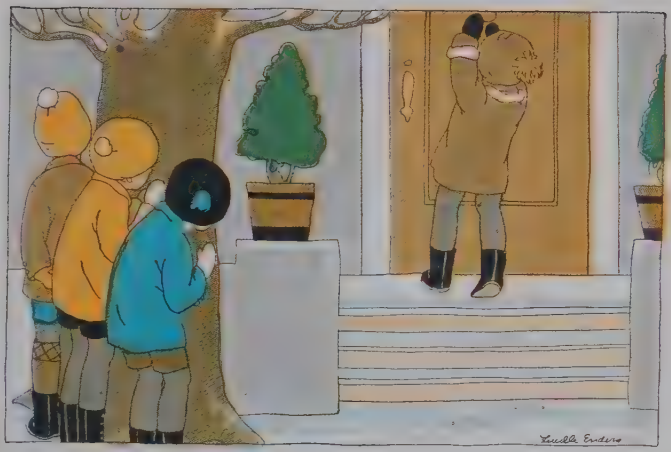


The Best Valentine

It was Valentine's Day.

Billy, Sally, and the two boys who lived next door had just made some valentines. Now they were taking them to their friends.

They put the valentines into Billy's little yellow wagon and started off.



The first house they came to was a little gray house. A friend of Sally's lived there.

Sally ran up to the door of the house.

She put the valentine under the door and rang the bell.

Then she ran as fast as she could and hid behind a tree.

EXPRESS
Lucille Enders

A little girl came and opened the door. She did not see Sally. But she saw the valentine.

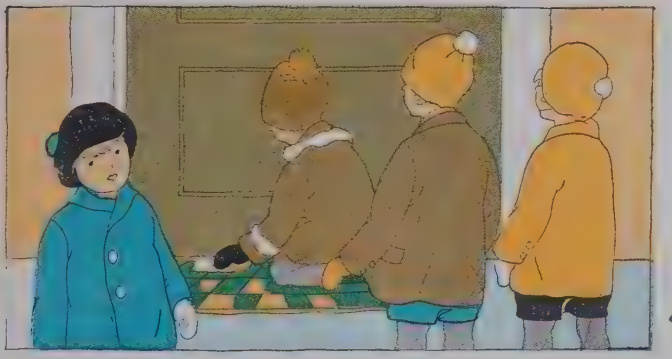
The next house they came to was a little white house. A friend of Billy's lived there.

Billy ran up to the door of the little white house. He put the valentine under the door and rang the bell. Then he ran as fast as he could and hid behind a tree.

A little boy came and opened the door. He did not see Billy. But he saw the valentine.

The next house they came to was a big yellow house. Some of their friends lived there.

Lucile Enders



Sally and Billy and the two boys ran up to the door of the house. They put the valentines under the door and rang the bell. Then they ran as fast as they could and hid behind three trees.

Some children came and opened the door. They did not see Billy and Sally and the two boys. But they saw the valentines.

from Daddy

The two boys and Sally and Billy went to other houses.

Then they went home. And when they got home, they all found valentines from their friends.

Sally and Billy looked and looked at their valentines. They could not say which was the best valentine.

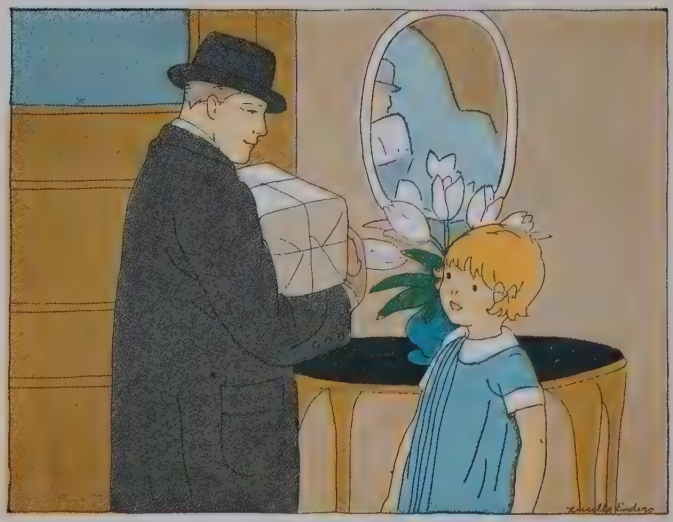
Just then Father came into the room. He said, "I have a valentine for you, too. Look!"

It was a real live baby.

"Oh, a baby brother!" cried the children.

Sally and Billy were very happy.

"Now we know which is our very best valentine," they said.



The Egg Hunt

One night Father came home with a large box under his arm.

"Oh, Father, what is in the box?" asked Sally and Billy.

"Tomorrow you shall know," said Father. "Wait and see. It is a surprise."

After Sally and Billy were in their beds, they thought and thought and thought. They wondered what was in the box.

"I think some little toy rabbits are in the box," said Billy.

"I think some little toy chickens are in the box," said Sally.

"Perhaps some colored Easter eggs are in the box," said Billy.

"Perhaps some little toy ducks are in it."

The next morning Sally and Billy each found something on the breakfast table. They each found a little basket. In each basket was a little letter.

"Please read what it says, Mother," said Sally.

"Billy can read it," said Mother.

So Billy read it, and this is what he read:

"For candy eggs
You must look
In every corner,
In every nook.
For the one who gets
The most we'll clap,
And put on his head
An Easter cap."

Sally and Billy began to look. They looked under the chairs. They looked on the tables. They looked everywhere.

Wag and Puff looked, too.

"Time is up," said Father.

Billy and Sally counted the eggs they had found.

Billy had found fourteen eggs, and Sally had found twelve eggs.

Just then Wag began to bark. Sally and Billy looked to see what was the matter.

What do you think they saw?

They saw Wag with a basket in his mouth. There were eggs in the basket. Wag had found the basket behind the door.

Father said, "Well, perhaps Wag has found the most eggs. We must count them and see."

So they counted one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen eggs.

"Wag has found the most eggs," said Father. "He gets the prize. He found sixteen eggs."

Then Father and the children clapped their hands for Wag.

Father put a little Easter cap on Wag's head and said, "Good for you, Wag."

The children laughed and laughed, and Wag said, "Bow-wow-wow!"

The First of May

"Oh, I hope I shall get a May basket!" said Sally. "Today is the first of May and that is May-basket day."

That day Sally made a pretty basket in school for her mother. It was made of pretty blue paper. It had a very strong handle.

Sally picked dandelions at recess and put them into the basket.

Sally wanted to get home as soon as she could. She wanted to give the basket to her mother.

When her mother saw the May basket, she said, "Sally, you have made me very happy. Thank you very much for the pretty May basket."

Sally forgot all about wanting a May basket. She helped her mother take care of the baby.

Just as Sally was going downstairs, she heard the doorbell.

Sally ran to the door and opened it. What do you think she saw? A beautiful May basket.

Then she saw a little boy run around the corner of the house.

"Oh, a May basket from Billy!" shouted Sally. Then she showed it to her mother.

"What a strong basket!" said Mother. "What a pretty one it is! What pretty flowers are in it!"

Then Sally looked under the flowers and saw something small and round and red. It was candy.

"What good candy!" said Sally, as she ate some. "This is the nicest May basket in the world."

Just then Billy came in. He heard what Sally said. Then he was happy, too.

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